

**EVENT DAY EMERGENCY ROUTES AND PARKING ZONE) ORDER 20\_\_ CELTIC PARK AND EMIRATES ARENA & IBROX STADIUM**

Dear Programme Officers,

Further to your email of the 2 June 2021 and the revised timeline which was attached to it, I confirm the Council's position on the queries posed as follows (in red text):

- the period required for the submission of its statement and any proposed modifications

The Council notes that the Reporters' proposed programme provides for the Council submitting its statements in support of the making of the Orders by Dec 2021. However, having consulted internally and with our external legal advisers, the Council should be in a position to submit its Statements for both proposed schemes by the end of September 2021. This will include any modifications proposed by the Council. The Council respectfully suggests, to the Reporters, that the proposed programme for the hearings is altered to take account of the earlier submission dates.

The Council would sincerely hope that the earlier submission dates could mean the Reporters may be able to conclude the hearings and submit their Reports and Recommendations to the Council by mid summer of 2022. The Council notes that there are still a number of issues that may crop up in the progression of these hearings and the draft programme is based on a "*best case scenario*". However, if that earlier delivery date of the Reporters' Reports and Recommendations can take place, the Council will be in a much better place to consider the Reports and decide on how best to take the Orders forward before the (current) deadlines expire in late Oct/ early Nov 2022.

- whether or not any Covid-19 type relaxation of the Regulations has been agreed with the Scottish Government

The Council has been in dialogue with Scottish Government Officers on this matter since February 2021. No final definitive answer has been received from the Scottish Government on whether a Covid-19 relaxation will be possible. However, as time progresses, the most recent indication given is that the relaxation to the Regulations may be unlikely.

- the periods of extension allowed under the Regulations

The Scottish Government has confirmed that, given the circumstances pertaining to these hearings, the Scottish Government will be minded to grant all the 6 monthly extensions permitted under the TRO Procedure Regs for the making of these orders. Those extensions mean that the (current) deadlines for making these Orders will be 27 October 2022 for the Ibrox Stadium Order and 4 November 2022 for the Celtic Park Order.

Should you require any further information from me on the above, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Regards

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